

William H. Foskett
644 G Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

November 10, 2006

Re: 600-646 H Street NE, BZA # 17521

D.C. Bureau of Zoning Adjudication:

My home of over 30 years is within 200 feet of this proposed development. I have long awaited the redevelopment of H Street since I moved here shortly after the riots. **However I strongly object to the massive, ugly structure proposed in application 17521.**

I would enthusiastically welcome a mixed-use development of the 600 block of H Street NE that harmonized with the architecture of H Street and my neighborhood. Despite our efforts to work with the developer the proposed architecture still belongs to the 1960s K Street, NW style for which Washington is notorious. The minimal changes the developer has made to the style simply do not bring it into harmony with the historic style of H Street buildings. **In other parts of Washington I see that the local style has been honored in new structures. I expect equal treatment for my neighborhood.**

I would enthusiastically welcome a mixed-use development whose traffic would not jeopardize the safety of the many children who walk to Blair Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School with only slightly older brothers and sisters, whose traffic would not block the hardworking parents who drive their children to school early and pick them up late. **If built on the scale proposed this project will dump far too much of its traffic into the streets near the 7th and G entrances to the school. The traffic generated by this project, especially the construction traffic, places these children at risk.**

I would enthusiastically welcome a mixed-use development that had setbacks on 6th, H and 7th Streets sufficient to provide a green zone where trees and plants could grow around the building and the sidewalks. **Unfortunately the proposed structure has pitifully small setbacks and so overbuilds the lots that there is barely room for trash cans, much less the street furnishings needed for a first-class, economically viable retail area. And the pitifully small setbacks on the alley add insult to injury.**

I would enthusiastically welcome a mixed-use development that would not steal the sky from our views, and cast our backyards in chronic shadow while offering in return only a cheap façade of pre-cast panels and glass. Unfortunately this proposal is far beyond anything currently permissible under the zoning regulations and H Street Overlay. **To approve this application without significant further changes would be a breach of the hard-earned public trust we have placed in District government development officials and planning professionals.**

I hope that BZA will continue to honor the trust DC citizens have placed in you **by disapproving this application as it is now configured.** Please bring us a mixed-use development that will honor our neighborhood and foster a truly good climate for businesses that serve it instead of proposal 17521.

In trust,

William H. Foskett
644 G Street, NE

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 17521
EXHIBIT NO. 77

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CASE NO. 17521
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